



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Health

2021-2-E3901N074

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Knowing health and healthcare system dimensions

Understanding the social and environmental changes in health conditions of people over the last decades

Applying knowledge and understanding

Being able to identify common trends of health concept change and healthcare system functioning.

Developing skills to evaluate policies to combat health inequalities and promote individual and social well-being

Contents

- The social construction of illness
- The doctor-patient relationship

- The patient's experience of illness
- Determinants and health inequalities
- Healthcare system functioning
- Health promotion policies
- The impact of Covid-19 on health

Detailed program

The course sets out to provide knowledge of the main dimensions concerning sociology of health and health care.

In a micro sociological perspective, our attention will focus on the social construction of illness, on the doctor-patient relationship and on the patient's experience of illness.

In a macro-sociological perspective, it intends to provide students with tools to understand the persistent health inequities in our society. Moreover, we provide knowledge on the determinants of health and risk factors.

The course will reflect on increasingly pervasive medicalization / pharmacologization processes.

In addition to health issues, we will provide knowledge on the evolution of the health system and in particular, on the principles and functioning of the Italian health system.

Finally, we will analyze policies to combat health inequities and access to and use of health services.

On the methodological level, the course will allow the acquisition of the tools necessary to correctly describe a health event in a population

The course will give specific attention to Covid-19 pandemic issue, evaluating the impact on health and healthcare system.

Prerequisites

Sufficient educational skills in logic, social culture and reasonable capacities in learning, writing and communication

Teaching methods

Due the protracted health emergency, lessons will take place in online synchronous mode and will be recorded.

Lectures and group exercises.

Students have to enroll on e-learning platform, where they will find support materials for the lessons.

Assessment methods

Essay, written text and oral text (optional)

5 pages or more essay. 2000 pages characters (with the exclusion of graphs, tables, figures, etc.). The essay will contribute to 30% of final grade. The essay will have to be sent to marco.terraneo@unimib.it. The deadline to deliver the essay will be indicated in class for the first round. From the second session, the essay must be sent to the teacher at least one week before the schedule date for the written exam.

Examples of topics of essay:

- Patient's experience of illness
- Patient interaction with health personnel
- Health inequalities
- Health and risk factors
- Impact of healthcare system on individual and societal wellbeing
- Impact of COVID-19 on health and healthcare

The essay will have to be organized as follows:

- A theoretical framework of analysed topic (what scientific literature says about)
- A paragraph with quantitative and /or qualitative data concerning the topic.
- A paragraph with one or more interviews from which it emerges her/his perspective on topic studied.
- A final paragraph with a discussion of results.
- References

Written examination test (1 hour) -> Two open questions on attending students programme and topic discussed in class. Final test will contribute to 70% of final grade.

If the essay obtain a vote lesser than 18, students will have to study an additional text with respect to the basic program.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Toth F. 2014. La sanità in Italia, Bologna, il Mulino (capitoli 1-2-3-5-Conclusioni)

Contributi della dispensa curata dal docente: "Salute, sanità, società", dispensa resa disponibile sul sito e-learning del corso

Lesson slides

Specific reading materials on health emergency from Covid-19 will be suggested during the course.

ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH NEGATIVE RESULT IN ESSAY

Maturo A. 2010. Sociologia della malattia. Un'introduzione, Milano, FrancoAngeli.
